Removed of liquor shops on National Highways

434. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced the removal of liquor shops located on national highways, as one of the measures to prevent traffic accidents;

(b) whether the liquor shops have been removed and to what extent this has resulted in the reduction of accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The Government have not made any policy announcement for removal of liquor shops located on National Highways. However, in August, 1992 the State Governments were addressed, stating that they may like to review their policy with regard to the presence of liquor wending shops on the National Highways and curb the issuing of licences for liquor shops on National Highways so as to help in reducing the incidents of drunken driving and resultant accidents. Details of action taken by States in this regard are readily not available.

Representation given by employees of Cochin Ship building Yard

435. SHRI O. RAJGOPAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation or memorandum from a section of the employees of the Cochin Ship building Yard regarding the continued neglect of the ship building facilities available at Cochin, if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that ship building activity at Cochin has come to a virtual closure, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what work relating to ship building is going on at Cochin, the details thereof and whether it is sufficient keeping in view the enormous money invested there and the number of employees employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government have received representation from a section of the employees of Cochin Shipyard regarding revision of price of tankers under construction in Cochin Shipyard Limited, capital restructuring of Cochin Shipyard Limited and the revision of pricing formula. Government is already aware of all these issues and steps are under consideration at different stages for resolving these issues.

(b) and (c) Due to huge cost-price gap, Cochin Shipyard Limited has not taken up construction of the 3rd tanker ordered by the Shipping Corporation of India are awaiting revision of price of this vessel. The revision of the price of the 3rd tanker (86000 DWT crude oil tanker) alongwith the prices of two other similar vessels already delivered to Shipping Corporation of India, is under consideration of the Government.

Setting up of expert Committee for Merchant Shipping Act

436. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee of experts was appointed to study further amendments to the Merchant Shipping Act;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the Committee; and

(c) by when the Committee's report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In February 1991, the Government of India had constituted a Committee of Officials and Experts to study and review the whole